TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

May 14, 2003 LB 407

look at these things in perspective and we can't continue to go without trying, one, to make some compromise in connection with I think we thought, as a result from yesterday's discussion, there is an effort to try and reduce what the Appropriations Committee has had in its determination, and this is a good faith effort to do that. If we can't do this, I think that, as you probably saw, there are not that many cuts that you can make in the appropriation budget directly, so it's going to have to come in the form of K-16 education. It's going to come out of K-12, it's going to come out of the university, the state colleges and the community colleges. That's the only place left to make substantial cuts. And so I think that what we're trying to do is come to some kind of a middle ground. There was an effort yesterday to say let's have a middle ground, and I think is a good faith effort to do that. We've kept the the state colleges and the community colleges university, proportionate in their reductions as we have continued to do that in the Appropriations Committee, as Senator Beutler has As far as what took place last night, I think that's an illustration of a good faith effort on the part of the Legislature to try to reduce the size of government, which I thought our Governor was talking about. We need to reduce the size of government, so we reduce it, but it's in his area and so now we have a problem as far as he's concerned. So I think that we have to keep these things in perspective. We have tried to make an appropriate reduction and I think it shows how difficult it is, when you have an established agency of the government, how difficult it is to cut from them. So once you do it, they don't like that, but they're going to have to try and make some Other states have made that kind of an adjustment adjustments. and I don't recall anybody referring to their actions as absurd. And so I think that we have to really treat our responsibility without...certainly without calling names, without talking about arm-twisting, of which I saw none. But anyway, I think that now we need to seriously view the fact this is the seventy-ninth day the Legislature. We have to come to some kind of an It's up to us to do that and this is a good faith agreement. to achieve that agreement. I would urge your consideration of this favorably. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Pederson (Visitors